

35284 Petition Schemes and Presiding Officers

Some enquiries regarding petition schemes and Presiding Officers.

Are there a minimum number of signatures required for a petition to be considered by Council?

If so, does the number of signatures effect how the petition is heard?

For petitions submitted by an individual, 200 signatures are required.

For petitions which involves a local issue, 50 signatures are required.

For petitions submitted on behalf of a business, 20 local businesses on the Valuation Roll are required.

All petitions with the required number of signatories are considered under the same petitions process which involves the petition being presented to the appropriate Executive Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Is there any kind of verification of signatures and address to confirm they are all genuine/valid?

Signatories have to provide an address and postcode and tick a box to confirm they are an Edinburgh resident.

How and when are outcomes reported back to the petitioner?

The petitioner is invited to the Executive Committee which considers the petition to make a statement. The petitioner will be advised in writing of the committee's decision within ten working days.

How are the impacts and outcomes of petitions recorded and monitored – via committees, service plans or an alternative means?

The outcome is recorded within the minutes of the meeting of the committee. There are three possible outcomes to a petition being considered at committee:

1) request a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee;

2) agree that the issues raised by the petitioner do not merit further action

and/or

3) agree to take any other appropriate action.

In the event that outcome 1 or outcome 3 occurs, there is a process for tracking any subsequent actions which emerge from consideration of the petition via the Executive Committee's Rolling Action Log.

Do you have a separate Mayor and Presiding Officer who chairs Council meetings?

The Lord Provost chairs the City of Edinburgh Council.

If so, how is your Presiding Officer selected? Please can you share any process information you have regarding this.

In an election year, the Council will hold a meeting at 10 am, no later than the third Thursday after the day of the ordinary election of Councillors. At this meeting or at any adjournment of it, the Council will appoint the Lord Provost.